



**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs  
■ MEPA Office  
Environmental**

**Notification Form**

<i>For Office Use Only Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	14072
MEPA Analyst:	Holly Johnson
Phone:	617-626-1023

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

<b>Project Name: Reconstruction of Foundry Street (Route 123)</b>		
<b>Street: Foundry Street</b>		
<b>Municipality: Easton</b>	<b>Watershed: Taunton</b>	
<b>Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 19 322620E 4654271N to 322162E 4651741N</b>	<b>Latitude: 42.0212° N to 41.999° Longitude: 71.1425° W 71.1472°</b>	
<b>Estimated commencement date: Fall 2007</b>	<b>Estimated completion date: Summer 2009</b>	
<b>Approximate cost: \$ 4.1 million</b>	<b>Status of project design: 75% complete</b>	
<b>Proponent: Massachusetts Highway Department, Town of Easton</b>		
<b>Street: 10 Park Plaza, Room 4260</b>		
<b>Municipality: Boston</b>	<b>State: MA</b>	<b>Zip Code: 02116</b>
<b>Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Grace Arthur</b>		
<b>Firm/Agency: MassHighway</b>		<b>Street: 10 Park Plaza - Room 4260</b>
<b>Municipality: Boston</b>	<b>State: MA</b>	<b>Zip Code: 02116</b>
<b>Phone: (617) 973-8251</b>	<b>Fax: (617) 973-8879</b>	<b>E-mail: Grace.Arthur@mhd.state.ma.us</b>

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?  
 Yes  No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. \_\_\_\_\_)  No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?  
 Yes (EOEA No. \_\_\_\_\_)  No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))  Yes  No
  - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)  Yes  No
  - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No
  - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres):

**MassHighway (20 percent) and Federal Highway Administration (80 percent) construction funding**

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?  
 Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

Order of Conditions, Easton Conservation Commission; Section 404 Permit, U.S. ACOE; NEPA Categorical Exclusion, FHWA;

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- |  |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land            | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water           | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy          | <input type="checkbox"/> Air          | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations  | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
<b>LAND</b>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>
Total site acreage	12.0 Acres			
New acres of land altered		7.3 Acres		
Acres of impervious area	4.7 Acres	3.5 Acres	8.2 Acres	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		Approx. 2996.6 sf		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		9.65 lf (bank)		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		None		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage				
Number of housing units				
Maximum height (in feet)				
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	Foundry Street 10,700	0	Foundry Street 10,700	
Parking spaces				
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use				
GPD water withdrawal				
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment				
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)				

**CONSERVATION LAND:** Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

**RARE SPECIES:** Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

**HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:** Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:** Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify Canoe River Aquifer \_\_\_\_\_)  No

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative.

The Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway), in conjunction with the Town of Easton, is proposing transportation improvements to Foundry Street (Route 123) from the Norton town line north to Route 106, a distance of approximately 2.65 kilometers (1.65 miles) (See Figure 1). The purpose of the project is to improve safety along Foundry Street for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians and to improve the drainage system.

**Existing Conditions:**

Foundry Street within the project area is classified as an urban arterial and is within a predominately residential area. Many private driveways and residential sub-division access roads are connected directly to Foundry Street. Several wetland areas are found adjacent to Foundry Street and several intermittent streams cross under it. Additionally, the entire project is within the Canoe River Aquifer Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

The condition of Foundry Street is not consistent with current MassHighway roadway safety standards. The roadway, which carries an average of 10,700 vehicles per day, is approximately 7 meters (23 feet) wide, consisting of two 3.2-meter (10.5-foot) lanes and 0.3-meter (1-foot) shoulders. Foundry Street has no roadway markings to delineate travel lanes and the roadway edge is broken and ragged. The abutting five-foot gravel shoulder is heavily rutted in many areas. There are no sidewalks or provisions for bicyclists within the project area. There is no formal drainage system and stormwater is allowed to flow off the roadway onto abutting property.

**Proposed Condition:**

MassHighway proposes to reconstruct and widen Foundry Street. The proposed roadway will consist of two 3.5-meter (11.5-foot) travel lanes, two 1.25-meter (4.1-foot) roadway shoulders and two 1.5-meter (5.0-foot) sidewalks. A 1.25-meter (4.1-foot) grass

strip is proposed between the roadway and the sidewalks. Sidewalk is not proposed on the west side of Foundry Street between Norton Street and Old Foundry Street. The proposed sidewalk will more safely accommodate pedestrians within the project area and be equipped with access ramps in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards. The proposed roadway shoulders will more safely accommodate bicyclists or errant or disabled vehicles.

A formal drainage system is proposed along the entire project corridor. This system would consist of catch basins and manholes connected via concrete drainage pipes. A bituminous concrete berm is proposed along the roadway edge to direct stormwater and roadway debris to the drainage system and prevent deterioration of the roadway edge. Most of the roadway stormwater will be directed to various existing detention ponds or swales. The project would require the removal of approximately 10 mature trees.

To accommodate the roadway widening and sidewalk construction, the project will affect approximately 278.4 square meters (2,996.6 square feet) of bordering vegetated wetland. As the project design progresses, MassHighway will strive to minimize wetland impacts to the greatest extent practicable and will mitigate all impacts appropriately.

The Project is within the Canoe River Aquifer Area of Critical Environmental Concern. As the project qualifies as a Limited Project, MassHighway will file a Notice of Intent with the Easton Conservation Commission and a Section 404 Programmatic General Permit (PGP) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A Variance to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act will not be required

#### **Alternatives:**

No-Build: The No-Build alternative was rejected because it would allow the existing substandard roadway conditions along Foundry Street to continue. Roadway stormwater would continue to leave the roadway untreated.

Roadway Resurfacing: Under this alternative the existing roadway surface would have been rehabilitated and lane marking added. Wetland impacts from this alternative would have been minor. However, this alternative would not have addressed the existing safety problems of the Foundry Street corridor related to lack of roadway shoulders and sidewalks. Additionally, roadway stormwater would have continued to go untreated. For these reason, this alternative was not chosen.

Roadway Reconstruction to a 40-Foot Roadway Width: Under this alternative Foundry Street would be reconstructed under strict adherence to MassHighway recommended design standards for an arterial roadway. The roadway cross section would consist of approximately 3.75-meter (12.3-foot) lanes and 2.5-meter (8.0-foot) shoulders. This alternative was not chosen because of its substantial impact to wetlands and trees.

Roadway Reconstruction to a 32-Foot Roadway Width: Under this alternative Foundry Street would be reconstructed and widened to approximately 10 meters (32.8 feet). This would consist of 3.5-meter (11.5-foot) travel lanes and 1.25-meter (4.1-foot) roadway shoulders. This was chosen as the preferred alternative. This alternative would include the desired safety improvements, such as roadway shoulders and sidewalks and meet the minimum MassHighway design standards, while having substantially less impact on area wetlands and trees.

An Environmental Notification Form (ENF) is required for this project pursuant to CMR 11.03 (11)(b), 11.03 (6)(b)1.b., and 11.03 (6)(b)2.b. The project is within a designated ACEC, results in the widening of an existing roadway by four or more feet for one-half or more miles and requires the cutting of five or more living public shade trees of 14 or more inches in diameter at breast height.